

Church News

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their lives for the country they love and for which they fight.

In the early days, your own or your neighbors' brothers and fathers enlisted under the banner of the Cross. They have entered the needy mission fields at home and abroad as ministers and missionaries. Some have grown old in the service, some have fallen on account of disease. They are now "retired both from labor and from income." You must remember them in the hours of your prosperity and of their need. Do not forget the words of God to Israel, "Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth."

Already the nation is making large preparation to meet the great cost of caring for the blind, the lame, the maimed, and the dependent wives and little children of her dead warriors.

All the churches that are approximating their duty to their aged and infirm ministers and the needy widows and orphans of their dead have erected Endowment Funds, the interest from which supplements the annual gifts of the churches. The Methodist Episcopal Church is now raising an endowment of \$15,000,000, the Presbyterian, U. S. A., \$10,000,000, the Protestant Episcopal, \$7,500,000. Our fund is now \$543,000, and the General Assembly urges that it be made \$1,000,000 as soon as possible. This amount and more is greatly needed now.

Every loyal citizen is urged to practice rigid economy, even to the point of real self-denial, and apply himself with industry and energy to the supply of food, clothing and munitions so greatly needed for our own and for our Allies. The government looks to him, too, for money to meet the enormous cost of this war, and asks him to give, and to lend—to buy "Liberty Bonds."

We have long talked of sacrifice—of putting things on the altar. The Church is now challenged as Paul challenged the Corinthian Christians: "See that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

The great purpose of the nation is to secure liberty for every man in every land—"to make the world safe for democracy."

The burning purpose of the Church is to keep the world safe for democracy, and "to make democracy safe for the world," and to fulfil the ever-increasing purpose of God in the lives of men and of nations.

Our government recognized the need of spiritual and educational forces, and has left provision for the financial needs of the Church in this critical hour.

The "Liberty Bonds" may be transferred. You have proved your patriotism by buying them. You can show your devotion by giving them for the Church's needs. Our people of means will have to pay large income taxes. An exemption has been made so that those who desire to give "an amount not in excess of fifteen per cent of the taxpayer's taxable net income" for religious or educational purposes, need pay no tax on the amount so used. This does not tax the Lord's tenth nor a free will offering of the net income!

The Executive Committee of Chris-

tian Education and Ministerial Relief has been charged by the Southern Presbyterian Church with the duty of helping our boys and girls to secure the required training for life's work, and to care for the aged and infirm ministers and the needy widows and orphans of deceased ministers. Our treasury is exhausted. Our candidates for the ministry and mission service are in great need, and we must increase many of the meagre amounts formerly given those on the rolls of Ministerial Relief.

Will you send an offering through your Church during December—or right now to Mr. John Stites, treasurer, care of Louisville Trust Company, Louisville, Kentucky?

Louisville, Ky.

AN IDEAL COUNTRY CHURCH.

By Dr. E. H. Sholl.

James Payne, of Kentucky, having graduated at the Columbia Theological Seminary, received a call to a country church. On his arrival there he found twenty-six members, and the church in a shabby condition. He married Miss Annie Leslie, who in after years proved to be a genuine helper to a country pastor. The services of Rev. James A. Bryan, of Birmingham, Ala., were secured, and in a ten days' meeting one hundred and sixty were added to the church. Things never were as well. From the sale of cotton of the members the church was thoroughly repaired, new seats put in and an organ installed. A comfortable manse was built for the pastor, and also a new barn. Two cows were bought and a stock of hogs. Five acres were planted in alfalfa for grazing purposes and five acres were set aside for fruit trees and berries. The congregation grew to four hundred members, and contributions to benevolences were large: \$1,500 to Foreign Missions, \$1,500 to Assembly's Home Missions, \$500 to Education, \$400 to Publication and \$100 to Bible Society.

ARMENIANS DYING.

The following telegram tells its own pathetic story. What will America do about it?

November 3, 1917.

Armenian-Syrian Relief, Metropolitan Building, New York:

Famine increasing. Refugees driven from ripening crops, living unsheltered in indescribable rags, destitution and starvation. New refugees constantly arriving. Many will die of winter's cold without clothes or bedding. Women and little children now dying of hunger at our gates. No hope save America. Delay in relief means death to hundreds daily. American commissioners, after inspection, report most abject suffering they have ever seen. Prompt action imperative.

(Signed) Shedd, Ellis, Beury, Vanneman.

MRS. MICHAEL SAYAD.

It has now been more than eighteen months since the Richmond friends of the late Rev. Michael Sayad have made an appeal for his widow and children.

In the last letter received from Mrs. Sayad (by a sister of R. A. Lancaster, Jr.), dated Urumia, June 17, 1917, she says: "It is more than a year that I have not received a letter from you, or any of the kind friends which know of my distress. Always I have been eagerly expecting to welcome your reply. . . . For this awful time I have no other hope which will console me, and also to support my fatherless little ones, only I am waiting upon my heavenly Father, who will open up the hearts of our kind

friends to help once more these little ones, who are without an earthly leader. The difficulties and hardships of this year are greater than of last year. Scarcity of money, the low rate of dollar, it has caused almost famine, and everything it is price five and six times up. In our lifetime we have not seen such dearthness of provisions, or goods of any kind. Poverty is great, none to lend money, nothing to sell, in a word in great distress as we have no income, and also to be unable to earn even daily living for my children. Mikado and Florence this week they will finish their schooling for the summer vacation. My boy, Mikado, has got a high prize. Virginia helps me in my domestic work. Please remember me to our friends, Mr. Hodgson and family, Mr. Peabody and family, and also to all our other friends, more especially to our dear friend, Dr. William Gordon and family. As long as we live we shall never cease to pray for you, and all other good friends who came to our help. We need your prayers and practical sympathy. With our Christian greetings for you and all, I am,

Yours very gratefully,

S. M. Sayad."

In another letter, written more than a year ago, in speaking of being unable to give her children the warm clothing for which they begged her, she says: "One early morning while I was very anxious and thinking how am I going to meet all these little ones' wants, my youngest daughter, Florence, seven years old, her eyes full with tears, said to me, 'Mother, why you are sorrowful and thinking too much? The God of that widow and her children in the Bible who did not let her oil and flour finish, will not leave us needy because He is a kind Father for the widows as well as for the orphans.' So her tiny words were a comfort and courage only to trust Him and He will provide." Any contributions sent to Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., 721 Mutual Building, Richmond, Va., will be forwarded to Mrs. Sayad through the Board of the Northern Presbyterian Church, their treasurer having kindly consented to send it with their own funds for their mission in Urumia.

Among the Soldiers

IS OUR WORK FOR THE SOLDIERS WORTH WHILE?

By Rev. James I. Vance, D. D.

There seems to be much confusion in the minds of people as to precisely what a denomination, as such, may do for the soldiers in the army camps. Below I give two letters which came to me in the same mail from chairmen of our Local War Work Councils. These letters present different views of the same subject.

I may say that when Dr. Wells first approached me, asking that I assume the chairmanship of the War Work Council, I felt very much as the writer of the first letter feels. It did not seem to me that there was much for a denomination, as such, to do, and that the chaplains and the Y. M. C. A. covered the ground. I have since discovered that there is much for a denomination to do without in any way interfering with or overlapping the work of either the chaplains or the Y. M. C. A. The second letter brings this out, and there are other activities not mentioned in the second letter which a denomination may do. The effort of this denominational work is not at all in the line of sectarianism. It is rather to mobilize denominational work in the camp cities so as to make it contribute to the welfare of all the

soldiers in contiguous camps, and also in the camp to see that the Presbyterian Church looks up its own sons in a personal way and ministers to them, and functions through the Y. M. C. A. its ministries in the camp.

Letter No. 1.

"If I have gathered a correct impression of the ends arrived at from the newspaper accounts of the Birmingham Conference, I think the whole scheme is a very impracticable one, viz., to conserve our Presbyterian interests out of the midst of a camp made up of all faiths and no faiths. Experience has shown us here that you can't sort out the Presbyterians, and that after you have found them, you can't do anything for them as Presbyterians, but only as soldiers, regardless of denominational affiliations. I am anxious that you should not misconstrue my spirit. We will do anything we are told to do, if we can. But where hundreds of soldiers are trooping around from church to church, regardless of what church it may be, and shifting almost overnight from one camp to another, there is no effective way of specializing on one's own denomination.

"However, all this is neither here nor there. We are distributing Bibles, giving entertainments, inviting the soldiers into our homes, preaching the gospel, visiting the hospital, and whatever else we can do, without special reference to our own denomination, except in occasional instances, where we find it practicable."

Letter No. 2.

"Our activities include:

"1. Dinner served by our ladies to men after worship on Sunday—an average of about seventy-five a Sunday.

"2. Social rooms of church open every night. One employed custodian in charge. Volunteer helpers. Reading matter, stationery, games, musical instruments, etc.

"3. Monday night Bible class especially for men, conducted by one of our laymen.

"4. Every Friday night a special entertainment for the soldiers given by our ladies and young people. Program of readings, music, etc., light refreshments and personal fellowship.

"5. Occasional functions, as the entertainment of Bible class squads from camp, and "good-bye" socials for troops who are ordered to leave camp here.

"Our Young Ladies' Aid Society has assembled a company of musicians, and has presented a musical program or concert in three of the camps, which has been received with high favor.

"During this long period the attendance has varied, due in part to the fact that the men are shifted. The constituency which we first gathered around us is now all gone, mostly overseas. At the present time, we have about two hundred and fifty soldiers at church services on Sundays; fifty to seventy-five at Christian Endeavor Sunday evenings; and about one hundred and fifty at our Friday night entertainments.

"The other churches of our denomination are smaller, and not so favorably situated to easily get the men, but all these churches are interested, and are doing what they can, and with success, for the men. There are sixty thousand troops in the camps here. The Methodists have sent three special men for this soldier work; the Baptists have three; the Northern Presbyterians have sent one who is working with their local pastor here. These soldier pastors are not permitted any public religious function within the camps, all such public ser-